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Johnston, J. M.

1948

Species Acc't.

Alaska
Canada

J. M. Johnston
1948

Herring Gull
Larus argentatus

10 Apr. ~~Mar.~~ U.S.S. Baranof.
Seattle - Puget Sound → Strait of Georgia

This gull was seen most frequently. Constantly a flock of about 50 gulls wheeled astern and over the ship. Activity among them was stimulated whenever garbage was thrown overboard. The gulls would frantically sieze upon the garbage in a gulls kramble. — Characters: light gray mantle, white trailing & leading edge of the wing, spots of black more or less solid on the tips of the primaries, bright orange to light yellow bill with red spot on part part of lower mandible, pink legs and feet. These showed a grading of characters into those of the Glaucous-winged gulls. Flight is graceful and effort less. They wheel from one side of the ship to the other, banking up sharply and falling back with the air currents as they sweep aft over the ship, or will glide forward into the ships

apr.
-10 ~~Mar.~~ *Larus argentatus* 2

air stream. They will glide for a minute, making very slight gain on the ship which is traveling at about 11 knots. The wind is about 1→0 beaufort scale. When they cry, they open their bills to the stream The cry is a plaintive squawk ~~many~~ short, sharp, high squawks following in quick sequence or a sort of throaty hollow cluckamy squawks. They will occasionally alight on the ship on any projecting pedistel which affords enough surface for them to alight on. Often a gull will be chased off his perch by 2nd gull almost invariably as a perched gull's place is being approached by a second gull, the first one will relinquish the perch to the second. This change of occupants on one perch will occur every few seconds, continuing for 3-4 times until the flock becomes settled or flies away. Breast expanded when squawking

J.M. Johnston
1948

#3

Herring Gull.

Larus argentatus

1 May Stephens Passage.
1 mi. off Snettisham Inlet.

Large flock of these & other gulls, Glaucous, Glaucous winged & Short billed gulls seen feeding on some kind of krill in the water.

1 July Petersburg. Alaska.
" Ames Fur Farm, Petersburg Creek

On the trip down from Juneau to Petersburg I noticed the lack of gulls around the boat. Then today when I dumped the fish scraps out on the mud flats only the ravens (about a dozen) came to feed on the scraps. When I asked Mr. Ames about the gulls he said that they usually left these parts during the first part of June.

Johnston Herring and other large Gulls.

+Aug Chatam Strait
Off Security Bay

Roosting on the vertical piling and the horizontal stringers of a fish trap I saw the largest flock of these gulls that I have encountered in the last few days. (200 in the group)

Yesterday, I saw a few (about 10) of these gulls flying over the channel near Kake. Kake is a native village situated near a salmon cannery. No doubt these gulls are the first of the general population to return from the nesting grounds!

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1948

Herring Gulls

Larus argentatus

7 Aug. Holkham Bay, Alaska
Idohlbaer's Fox Farm

These gulls, with Glaucous and Glaucous winged, can be heard at anytime of the day, until late dusk. Uttering their calls from all parts of the Bay. One can usually hear a concentration of their calls coming from 2 or 3 localized direction. Upon search one will see a flock of 15 or more gathered around a spot on the water, some in the air others on the water. Much noise & activity. These are feeding on krill.

13 Aug. Holkham Bay Alaska.
Sand spit S of Sundum Pen.

This spit runs about a mile out into the Bay. The end has a high plain which becomes a small island as the tide rises. The gulls will set on this spit, facing the wind until the rising tide moves them

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Herring Gulls

15 Aug. Holkham Bay Alaska.

The more I watch the markings on the primaries the more uncertain I am about telling the exact difference between the glaucous-glaucous winged and Herring. They all fly in the same groups, along with immature ones, showing a range from pure white to black with white spots on the primaries.

22 Aug Holkham Bay - Alaska.

A flock of about 50 has been sitting on the beach of Beri I. directly across from Seal rock, when the tide was out. They have congregated there about the time that the kelp is uncovered. This has been regular for the past three days.

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Herring Gulls

#7

23 Aug. Nolchham Bay - Alaska.

Besides a group over on Beni I. beach a group of about 20 was sitting on Eagle I beach. As they sit or stand facing the wind, occasionally one individual will stalk quickly toward another. The aggressors head will be lowered & protruding out forward stiffly. The fore attached will always move out of the way by running or flying a few feet away.

Frequently one will break the stillness of their tranquil stance on the beach by ~~by~~ aquawking loudly. This, I think is one way they have of telling stragglers or lone gulls, where a group is located.

29 Aug Nolchham Bay Alaska
Kohlhase's Fox Farm.

A fresh breeze blew in

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1948

Herring Gulls

29 Aug. From the S.E. the Gulls were seen soaring & flying high over the bay not in flocks but as individuals. (2500 ft)

31 Aug. Same

A good stiff wind was blowing in from S.E. rain driving. A small flock of about a dozen were scared off the beach on the lee side of the southern tip by my approach. They flew over to Eagle I. about 200 yds away. None were soaring.

1 Sept. Same

The wind had slacked off to a fresh breeze and the gulls were out soaring again

M Johnston
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Surf Scoter Nyrocinae
Melanitta perspicillata

10 Apr. Middle of Strait of Georgia
Opposite Vancouver, Canada.

5:00PM a flock of 3 hens and 2 Drakes were seen flying eastward across the stern of the USS Baranof. The females were in the lead. They were about 500 yds from the ships. As they crossed astern one drake swung into the lead the 3 females fell in line behind him and the second drake brought up the rear. They were evenly spaced themselves with about 2 yds between. Flew about 10 ft above the water. The flock turned northward and then cut back toward the west across the bow of the ship. Characters: an orange bill, a dark brown black body, except for two white patches over the forehead and over the back of the crown. Larger than most ducks. Hens without the white head patches

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Surf Scoters

26 Apr. Juneau, Alaska.
Gastineau Chan. at Douglas Bridge.

A flock of about 25 were swimming and diving in the water over the mud flats. Tide was in, water over flats was about 10 feet deep.

25 May Gastineau Channel
0.5 mi north of Marmion Is.

A flock of about 50 were scared up as our boat approached them in mid channel. They started on a northerly course up the chan. on taking off, but re-curved to a southerly course thru the chan, with the wind

11 Aug. Holkham Bay, Alaska
Channel 500 yds N. of Eagle Is.

In a dead spot of the ebb tide here, a massive flock of these birds were floating on the calm water. (Water was black with ducks for a half mile — in a string more or less 100 yds wide) They

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1948

Surf Scoters

11 Aug drew my attention by a marked increase in the sound of their flapping over the surface of the water and the whistling of their wings as they shutter along the surface Generally a few ahead always moving about in such a large flock. Whole sections of the flock would shutter one way - then turn another way. Then I saw four killer whale racing in about & through the flock of ducks! The whales would ride high in the water, going perhaps 20 mi per hour. I did not actually see them engulfing the ducks, but if closer view could have been taken, this is more than likely what was happening.

13 Aug Holkham Bay Alaska
0.5 mi east of Crow Island.

The flock stretches from here across the Bay toward Barlight Of the ones near me, about ½ are American scoters and

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Surf Scoters

13 Aug. the other half Surf Scoters with one white patch on their forehead rather than the two patches such as the ones seen in Eastine an Channel. I am using the male individuals of the flock in this comparison.

14 Aug. Holkham Bay, Alaska

Same flock seen about in the same place today.

16 Aug. Holkham Bay. Alaska

There is no way of telling just how many there are, but today the flock seems bigger than before, extending from East of Crow Is. to Harbor Island.

25 Aug. Holkham Bay - Alaska
000°T, 1.8 mi from Bar light.

A white winged scoter was seen with a flock of the one white patch Surf Scoters.

gm Johnston

Surf Scoters

31 Aug. Holkham Bay, Alaska.
Channel between Harbor I. + Eagle I.

A southeaster has been blowing for the past two days - steady downpour, clouded in, temp. down about 5°. First light snow on the mountain tops yesterday. The Scoters have stayed in this sheltered channel and the lee side of Harbor island. The only different behavior in this rainy weather is that they will stand up out of the water and shake their backs water off more frequently. In the sunny weather, one might see a scoter stand up every 2-5 seconds while watching a group of perhaps a hundred. In the wet weather one will see perhaps five ducks at a time stand, one all the time at any moment you look at them

The reason why the Scoters have been seen previously in good weather, scattered all over the Bay is because there have been an abundance of Needle fish, (about 4" long and another specie of the

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1948.

Surf Scoters

31 Aug. Smelt family, about 6" long, in the bay, as evidenced by the frequency of seeing seal and porpoise, the manner of feeding & numbers of the Bonaparte Gulls, the number of Marbled Murrelets, and the fact that five King Salmon trolling boats have taken about 4000 lbs of K.S. (from the 22nd until the 28th) The K.S were invariably full of needle fish, when inspection of gut was made

There have been an abundance of the small fish because the water has been loaded with phosphorescent plankton. The luminescence in the water at night is fantastic.

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1948

Journal

April
10th March

USS Baranof.

Seattle – Puget Sound Strait of Georgia

About 50 gulls followed the ship all day – squawking incessantly. About 85% Herring gulls, 12% Glaucous winged, a flock of unidentified, small black headed gulls were seen in the Active Pass. 1 Short Billed gull was seen when the ship was 5 miles N of Active Pass. 2% of Total seen immature:

Glaucous	few
Glaucous winged	many
Herring	abundant
Western grebe	1
Brandts Cormorant	many
Short billed Gull	
Surf Scoter	
Unidentified ducks –	
"	small, black headed gulls

J.M. Johnston

Herring Gull
Larus Argentatus

11 Apr. U.S.S. Baranof
5 miles S. of ~~Queene~~ Calvert, ~~Charlotte Island.~~ Br. Canada

When making a landing on the water this gull will glide slowly down to the water into the wind. When about 2 ft above the water, where it desires to alight, it will lower its legs and fan its tail downward spreading the tail feathers wider. This tends to make the bird slow to almost no forward speed. The long axis of the body tips upward as the bird stalls out. The downward dropping of the legs is continued until the legs swing forward a little. The feet are spread, toes raised so that the hallux hits the water first. The web of the feet act as ~~a~~ shock absorbing mechanism and the birds body settles onto the water. The wings are undulated rather quickly just after the

11 Apr. Herring Gull

stall out is completed up until the time the bird settles in the water, they (wings) are then folded back over the body.

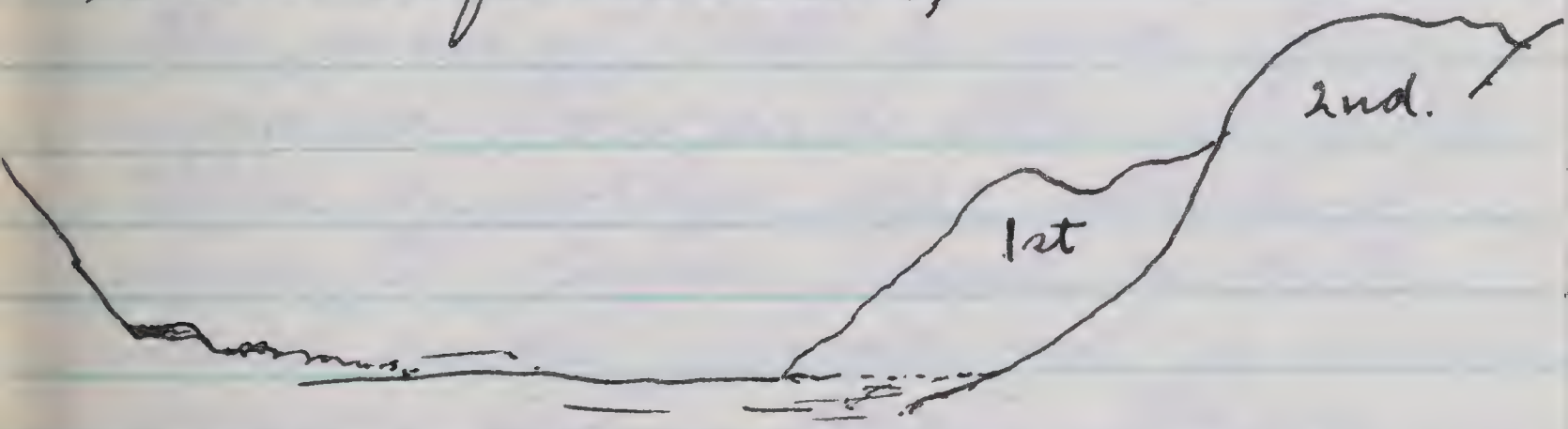
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1948

Bald Eagle Buteoninae

Haliaeetus leucocephalus

11 Apr. Finlayson Channel B.C. USS Barnett
Near southern part of Roderick Is.

On the island west of Roderick Island, near the second mountain from the southern tip of the island four bald eagle were seen. They were easily identified by their large size, black wings, and white head and tail. At first only one was seen. It soared and flew out over Finlayson Channel from the valley between the 1st + second mountain. (Looking south thru the channel this is the profiles of the two mountains refered to:)



The eagle was flying at about 300-400 feet altitude. The ship had thrown garbage over the side and the sea gulls, about 50, in number had swarmed onto the garbage. The eagle flew

11 April Bald Eagle

almoost directly over the garbage then swooped down to it at an angle of about 80°. slideslipping and drawing in its wings part way. It leveled off before nearing the water then came quite close to the water where the garbage floated. I was not certain whether it ate any. It did not attack any of the gulls. After making one pass at the garbage it mounted back up to the altitude previously occupied but at a slow rate of climb (perhaps 45°) It flew back toward Mt. #2 Three or four minutes later two more bald eagles came from the area of Mt 2 and proceeded toward the garbage. Then another one about a minute later, and a 4th bald eagle came out a minute or more after that. These made passes at the garbage like the first bald eagle, then mounted back up to 3-400 feet. They continued to soar around, and make decents to the garbage as

11 April. Bald Eagle

long as we were in sight of them.

On Roderick Island on the east side of Finlayson Channel is a water fall about 200 feet above sea level. The fall is about a mile north of the 2 mountains referd to. The ship made a sharp turn Left. into a channel in its northward course. Near Roderick Island ~~opposite~~ where the ship turned two more Bald Eagles were seen soaring at the same hight ~~that~~ as the others.

They soar gracefully and will occasionally flap their wings.

1:50 PM Opposite the lower inlet about 8 mi below Swansons Bay. I saw a Bald eagle swoop down toward the wake of the ship about 200 yards astern. The eagle leveled off slowly and approached the water near enough to snatch a morsel of garbage with its talons and then it commenced a slow ascent to the mountain on the west of ~~Finlayson~~ Tolmie Channel

1 April. Bald Eagle.

slowly reaching an altitude of about 75 feet. It flew, flapping its wings most of the way. Soared around the trees making progress northward about 200 yds along the mountain side. It was lost from view. About five minutes later, 2 eagles were seen soaring at about 300 ft altitude over this same area.

W M Johnston
1948

Bald Eagle.

14 Aug Holkam Bay, Alaska
1/2 mi east of Bay on Duck Creek.

As I came near a place in the stream where the water ran 2-3 inches deep over gravel bar, a mature Bald Eagle flew up & away across the stream. At the place where it flew up were the remains of a freshly killed Humpback Salmon. He had probably seized the fish out of the shallow place in the stream in its attempt to traverse the shallow rapids.

When taking off from tree tops, they will drop down forty-fifty feet before getting up normal flying speed. Drop is gradual - 45° slope.

pm Johnston
1948

Short Bill Gull

Larus canus

Swanson — Graham Reach
11 Apr S. ~~Swanson~~ Bay - To Lynie Channel & ~~Finlayson Channel~~. B.C.
½ mile below Swanson Bay.

Six of these gulls were seen flying about 100 yds off the western shore. These gulls flew lazily along northward with about the same speed as the ship (11 kts) perhaps a little faster. The flaps of their wings are not as ~~thick~~ thick as the Herring gull. They were identified by the white head, body and tail, gray mantle, black wing tips with white spots near the end of the primaries, giving the appearance of white on the extreme wing tip. They did not fly along after the ships like the other gulls did but kept about 100 yds off shore. They would fly at about 50 foot level and would occasionally wheel sharply, swooping down to the water and alighting to pick some thing out of the water. Would stay on the water only a

11 April Short Billed Gull

few seconds and then would take off to resume flight at 50 foot level. Descent would be at about 45°

~~Stokagan~~ Graham Reach and Tolmie Channel are deep passages, one continuing northout break into the other. It is about ½ mi wide with high mountains rising steeply on either side. The Short billed gull that we saw yesterday was seen near Active Pass B.C. which ~~has~~ very much the same physical conditions as this passage. We did not see Short bill gulls in the wide, not closed in by mountains, passages.

J M Johnston
1948

Raven Corvidae
Corvus corax

12 Apr. Ketchikan, Alaska.
Main road 1 mi s. of Town.

A very large black bird was seen perched on a bare limb (8" diam) of a conifer, The feathers on the throat were partially separated from one another giving the throat a ragged appearance. The sounds it uttered were a resonous, crrrunnuck - The sound centered around one tone for several repetitions, but occasionally one cruck would descend through about four full tones.

28 April. Juneau, Alaska -
Eastman Chan. 500 ft. N. of Douglas Brdg.

Probably do not eat the fruit, but animals on it.

A group of four were seen feeding on the fucus beds, west side of chan. They walk slowly along - pecking here + there at the clumps of fucus. Flew to conifers west side W. Juneau Rd. One alighted in the top part of

Johnston
1948

Ravens.

28 April. a conifer - others kept on going. The one that alighted kept up a series of crunchs, one every 3-4 seconds. Some of the sounds are raucous + flat others are resonous, and occasionally he uttered a liquid like sound that is pleasing to hear.

9 June. Juneau, Alaska
0.5 N. of Douglas Bridge, W. Juneau Rd.

The ravens are seen every day flying about the woods - alighting in the tree tops. Rarely do they drop below tree top level because there is not enough space amongst the trees for them to fly. One can distinguish them as they fly over the house by the rattling sound of their feathers. When they utter their resonous "cruck" sound, it seems to fill the whole quietness of the woods.

It is reported that the native tribe (Thlinglet) revere the bird as an object of worship (ancient custom) that is why likenesses of the bird are

J M Johnston
1948

Raven

9 June. seen as the top character on their totem poles - saw several of these in the village in Ketchikan.

12 July Petersburg - Alaska
Ames Fur Farm. Petersburg Creek

There are a group of about 8 ravens that frequent the place where we dump all the fish scraps, cleanings etc every day. This place is about in the middle of the intertidal zone, and the ravens will be found there when the scraps are first uncovered and will remain until everything edible is cleaned up. They pick the meat off the flounder & salmon heads. Balmon (dog & humpy) roe seem to be a choice bit to them. They rarely squabble with each other over the feed, each going about his own business slowly picking at the scraps. They are annoyed easily. Nearly the opening of the door of the fish house 1150 feet from them will put them to flight.

J.M. Johnston
1948

Raven

2 July. Petersburg, Alaska
Anne's Fox Farm, Petersburg Creek

A conifer near the fish house is a favorite spot for Ravens to perch. Today two were perched in the top of the tree, both rehearsing their repertoire of sounds. On other days there has been only one. There does not seem to be any significance attached to their "singing" They make these sounds while flying as well as when perched. They alight in this one tree more than others because it affords an easy place for them to land on. One is just as likely to hear them singing anyplace in the wood as here. They have been singing in this fashion ever since I came in April. Perhaps this singing is merely the expression of an intrinsic behavior pattern. Perhaps their singing behavior is comparable to the displaying behavior of Cal Jays or Water Ousels

J M Johnston
1948

Raven

27 July Petersburg, Alaska
Ames Fur Farm.

The tide was at low ebb and a flock of about 30 Short Billed gulls were standing at rest on a sandy shoal. A raven was perched on a rotten stump on the opposite side of the creek. The raven took off in his slow casual manner heading straight for the gulls. The gulls dispersed in a hurry and the raven alighted on the shoal just as though the gulls had not been there. After alighting he wearily stepped around on the shoal in his slow way, did not attempt to pursue the gulls. Stayed a minute then flew off. ???

28 Aug Holkham Bay Alaska
Sumdum Peak. Old, deep, woods

A raven was heard flying over the tree tops - "singing." This is typical of the way they are seen here.

J.M. Johnston
1948

Paridae
Chestnut Backed Chickadee

Penthestes rufescens

12 Apr. Ketchikan, Alaska.
Main road 1/2 mi S. of town.

This little bird was seen hopping from twig to twig, tapping the periferal branchlets of a poplar type tree along side the road. It had a blackish cap. The bottom demarcation running straight back from the bill just below the eye. The vertex of a white surcalge began at the base of the bill sweeping out over the cheek. Black covered the throat. The backs sides were rufous. The wings a darke dusky gray with small patches of white. It was feeding off the new recently put out leaf buds. The outside bracts were just beginning to peal back. The chickadee would pick off the whole bud with attached twig and then eat the tender young leaves

12 Apr Chestnut Backed Chickadee

of the bud. Occasionally in order to secure the bud, the Chickadee would swing his body under the bracelet on which it had perched. He would not hang by a free hold on the bracelet but would grip the bracelet tight so that his body would be fixed at any angle around the bracelet.
Two others were seen in the same group of people. These birds stayed about 15 feet apart as they foraged over the tree.

Birds seen at Ketchikan
Chestnut Back Chickadee
Raven,
Fox Sparrow
Oregon Junco
Robin
Greater Scaup
Herring gull.

W Johnston
1948

Chestnut Backed Chickadee
Penthestes rufescens

4 June Juneau, Alaska
0.5 mi N. of Douglas Bridge, West Juneau Rd

A pair of these birds were seen going to and fro from the surdounding conifers to a hole in an upright rotten stump. Freqhently they would give their "chickadee" call - One bird would enter the hole in the stump and remain there until the other bird came back to the immediate vicinity of the stump, announcing its presence with the "chickadee" call. The bird that had been in the stump would emerge from the hole & fly away. The waiting bird would enter the hole. They would be carrying bits of food in their bills upon returning to the stump from the surrounding wood.

The stump was about 6 feet high 14" in diam - with several woodpecker holes scattered around on it. The chickadees were using one of these holes which

McLennan
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Chestnut Backed Chickadee

4 June (con'd) was about 5 feet from the ground.

Upon examination, I found six fledgeling chickadees crowded into a pocket like nest about six inches below the opening in the stump. The pocket was about as large as my fist. The fledgelings had a complete set of juvenile feathers, but could not fly yet. The parents set up a "racket" in protest. They both remained within 6 feet of the nest, hopping from branch to branch in the gooze berry bushes around the nest, giving their "chickadee" frequently and much more forcefully than before.

Three minutes after I had ceased examining the nest they commenced feeding the young as before.

The nest was lined with bits matted hair, fibres and feathers.

J M Johnston
1948

Chestnut Backed Chickadee

21 Aug 1948 Holkham Bay - Alaska -
Kohlhase's Fox farm, Harbor Island.

Heard a flock of about 12 in the mid section of the conifers They were working their way thru the conifers, going from branch to branch by short jumps & flights about 3-4 feet ~~av~~ ragged length.

27 Aug. Holkham Bay. Alaska
003°T, 2.0 mi from Bar Light.

Everyday, since Tuesday a flock, of two have been heard high overhead in the canopy of foliage, 80 or more feet from ground.

of the conifer forest

M Johnston
1948

Crow

Corvus brachyrhynchos Corvidae

2 May Harbor Island, Alaska,
Cove S.E. part of island.

There is a flock, perhaps 50 or more that stay in the vicinity of the buildings on the southern tip of the island. Constantly they create pandemonium with their raucous mele, flying about the conifers where they nest, sometimes chasing each other. They give one the impression of a quarrelsome squabbling family.

Generally when they are flying, they will utter the raucous "caws". There is a wailing like sound that they give only while perched in the conifers. Sounds like "Maaaoooh-waaaaoooooh!" Another patter is heard only while they are perched. This is a series of clucks, coughs, cracks etc. that will start slowly the sounds coming in clear

Crows

2 May succession. The jargon continues perhaps a minute then will be increased in volume + frequency of sounds gradually increasing until it will end in a frenzied garble.

22 June. Harbor Island, Alaska
Kohlhase's Fox Farm

A group of six were seen on the beach in the fucus zone while the tide was out.

The crows are still carrying on in the conifers around the farm. A raven flew across the lower tip of Harbor island from the direction of Bens Island - about 50 ft above the tree tops. A group of fifteen or so crows broke from the conifers making a hell of a racket - Took out after the raven, diving on him, flying all around him until he was a half mile away.

J M Johnston
1948

Crows.

10 Aug. Harbor Island, Alaska
Kohlhase's Fox Farm.

The flock of Crows that did stay in the vicinity of the buildings on Harbor Island now beside on Ren's Island on the south eastern part

21 Aug. Holkham Bay - Alaska.

At an hour after sundown a large flock of perhaps 400 Crows were seen flying at 1000 ft. over Grave Pt toward Pt. Ashley.

23 Aug. Holkham Bay - Alaska.

About sundown, this flock was seen flying at about 1000 ft northwestward over Ren's Island toward Eagle Island. Perhaps this time the flock presented itself in a more loose formation, but it looked four times as big as it was on the 21st

W.W. Johnston
1948

Common Loon.

Gavia immer Gaviidae

14 May Fredrick Sound
3 mi S of Five Fingers Light. 4 mi. W. Fanshaw

Two seen swimming on surface. Would occasionally dive. Length of dive 30-45 seconds. Length of surface float longer than dive.

9 Aug. Holkam Bay.
. Southern point of Harbor Island

One heard off the west side of the island uttering the laughing call at intervals of about 5 seconds. Several minutes later (15) one was seen drifting & swimming with the incoming tide between S. point H.I. & Ben's I. did not dive.

A pair, first seen 500 ft to S.W. of Southern point H.I. Summer plumage. On one, the white band about neck was a shade more gray looking. They were not making any sounds. Swimming with the incoming tide around

J. M. Johnston
1948

Common Loon.

Gavia immer Gaviidae

9 Aug. - the southern tip of the island (N.E.-ward) When I raised my binoculars, they turned back the way they had come, swimming hard for about 10 feet. Then relaxed again & continued their previous course. About every 5 sec. they would slip their bills under the water. Traveled 100 ft before diving. Stayed under 21 sec. Then. Commenced dipping bills again. Swimming slowly, they traveled about 50 feet then dove again. (3 & second between dives. Up again in 17 seconds. Dove in 12 sec. By now they were opposite the point of the island. The distance from where they dove to where they came up was about 40 feet. Down again after a float on the surface of about 7 seconds. Continued diving until went out of sight around Eagle Island.

Their dive is smooth. Hardly any splash. Head goes down first. Most of a submerge than a dive

J M Johnston
1988

Common Loon

29 Aug. Holkham Bay, Alaska
Channel between Harbor I. & Eagle I.

A pair seen swimming and diving, with the current as it passed northwestward thru Chan. Both in winter plumage.

2 Sept Holkham Bay Alaska
S. E cove, Harbor Island.

Three in winter plumage seen swimming slowly around in the cove. Did not dive for 3 or 4 minutes. Dove - stayed under 28 seconds - came up about in same place. - Swimming + dipping their bills. One unfolded its wings and held them outward in a drooping arch for about 5 seconds, then stood up, shook its wings, then settled back into the water. A second one did the same a minute later

These were within 50 ft of shore, water about 2 fathom

J M Johnston
1948

Barn Swallow 1
Hirundo erythrogaster
Hirundinidae

5 May Harbor Island, Alaska.
Kohlhase's Fox Farm.

Two were seen coursing in and around the buildings. They frequently fly into the porch of the main residence where Mr. Kohlhase has made a perch for them of a shingle-protruding horizontally from the wall. There are very few moments when they are not chattering. A favorite spot for one of them (may be both) is on the south peak of the shop roof - where it will sit & chatter for a minute at a stretch.

7 May These two seen as they flew out of the porch.

8 May Two seen flying over shop.

19 July Petersburg, Alaska
Amer Fur Farm Petersburg Creek.

A pair had made their nest

J. M. Johnston
1948

Barn Swallow

19 July inside the front porch just over the door. They raised five young. A wire was stretched across the porch on the same level with the nest about a foot away from it. When the young were old enough to fly they would perch on this wire on the part nearest the nest, side by side & just as close to each other as they could squeeze.

29 July Petersburg, Alaska.
Ames Fox Farm.

Have not noticed the swallows. Perhaps they have been gone a day or so ago.

6 Aug Hollis Bay, Alaska.
Robbins's Fox Farm, Harbor Island.

Two swallows flew out of the porch when I came in this evening about dusk (21:00)

J M Johnston
1948

Barn Swallow

9 Aug. Holkham Bay - Alaska
Kohlhasei Fox Farm Harbor Is.

Saw two swallows flying in the yard, about the buildings.

16 Aug. Holkham Bay Alaska.
Entrance to Duck Creek.

Six swallows were seen flying in a scattered flock, about a hundred feet high southward along the shore. They were cavorting along in their usual erratic flight.

J M Johnston.
1948

Old Squaw Duck.

Clangula hyemalis Nyrocinae

4 May Harbor Island, S.E part.

These ducks seen in groups of 4-10 in the shallow water 5 ft - 15 ft. around the southern end of the island. Identified by their melodious quacking and summer plumage. Song starts with one or several short quacks or oinks which seem to reluctantly follow each other then the song concludes quickly with the musical pattern which resembles three distinct tones - ouk-a-luk. These ducks dive and will stay under for 30-40 seconds. Their voices can be heard almost any time of the day.

J.M. Johnston. Old Squaw
1948 Clangula hyemalis Nyrocinx

7 May. Holkham Bay.
Harbor Island West Cove.

Almost at any time of the day, these duck may be seen and heard around the southern tip of the island where the water is about 2 fathom deep, diving or flying about. They usually travel in small flocks of 5 or 10. Each flock will dive at about the same time & surface together. As soon as they surface, immediately the musical sound is uttered. One is fast, head over quick & down with a plunk.

21 May. Same place
Not heard or seen as frequently as the first part of May.

15 June - Same place
None to be heard or seen.

9 Aug. Same place
None -

J M Johnston
1948

Grouse

15 May. Seymour Canal, Alaska
Pleasant Bay —

Since we entered the Bay and anchored about 8 P.M. a continual whoooomp, whoooomp, whoooomp, a low, resonate sound that seems to come from all directions around the bay, has been heard. It has no breaks - continues steadily. Mr. Kohlhase said it was the Grouse. Whether it is one, or a number of Grouse making the sound I can't tell. It sounds as though it would be made by only one because of its constancy* but yet it is heard from all parts of the woods perhaps its resonant quality gives it this non directional aspect.

* and singleness of sound in rythm.

17 May Holkham Bay, Alaska
N side Sumdum Pen.
Same sound heard.

J M Johnston
1948

Otter Lutra

15 May Seymour Canal, Alaska.
Pleasant Bay -

In the late dusk about 10.30 an Otter was seen swimming about 100 feet from our boat. Mr. Wallace identified it as an Otter saying that it could be distinguished from a seal by the smallness of the head and that only an inch of head was seen above the water. Also, he said the size of the ripple away from the head was smaller than that of a seal. To me it looked like a black object on the dead calm water. It dove - came up in about twenty seconds swam about 50 feet, in a N.E. direction across the Bay, generally near the deep channel of the Bay, dove again and we saw it no more.

L. M. Johnston Otter Lutra

16 May. Stephens Passage, Alaska
1.5 mi S of entrance to Snettisham

1400 A warm sunny day, gentle breeze. An otter was seen standing on a rock about four feet above the water, part of a rocky point that jutted about 500 yds out from shore. It was facing the water. After remaining still for about a minute it began humping its rear end up and down. Kept this humping motion up for about ten seconds, making one up & down motion per second. It disappeared over the rocks.

1947

Swainson Thrush

17 May Holkham Bay - Alaska
North shore Bundum Peninsula.

One heard singing in the woods.

9 June Juneau, Alaska
2 Blocks N of Small Boat Harbor.

At 11:30 PM it is as light as it would be in California (LA.) a few minutes before dawn or after sunset. A Swainson Thrush was singing as though it were mid day. It is the only one I hear singing ~~though~~. at this time

22 July. Petersburg Alaska
Ames Fur Farm, Petersburg Creek

Hear one singing most every day.

14 Aug. Holkham Bay - Alaska.
Kohlhases Fox farm - Hunter Island

Haven't heard any since arrived here on 6 Aug.

J M Johnston
1948

Black Bear

17 May Holkham Bay, Alaska
N. side Sunoldin Pen.

An adult Black Bear was seen on the beach from the boat. There were three cubs with her, two black and one brown. The cubs cavorted about the adult.

26 May. Holkham Bay, Alaska
Cove, N shore, entrance to Tracy Arm

A big Blackie was rolling in the wheat like grass just above the beach. It ambled off into the wood as we neared the shore.

28 May Holkham Bay, Alaska
W. side, peninsula, near Bar Light

A blackie was seen on the shore in the grass belt just above the beach, eating the grass.

M. Johnston
1948

Hair Seal

19 May Folkham Bay, Alaska
Chan. 0.5 mi S. of Sundum Pen.

These seal have been seen frequently, perhaps at the rate of one a day, sometimes as many as fifteen in a day since we have been fishing in these waters. When they are seen they are usually about 100 yds from the boat, with only their head showing. Occasionally one will raise its head & neck out of water about a foot, to see the boat. They are always looking toward the boat when they raise that high out of the water. They will stay raised high out of water only five seconds at the longest. usually shorter. If a motion of ones arms is made while they are watching in this raised stance, they will submerge immediately. Usually they are very mov-

Hair Seal

9 May ing along the surface with only their nose and the crown of their head showing. They move at a rate of about 1 ft/sec. If they are not disturbed they will swim along the surface 20 to 30 feet before submerging.

On days when the water is smooth they are seen more frequently. On rough days it is difficult to see them which surfaced because of the choppy surface.

Today we were moving along at about 5 knots when a seal surfaced 30 feet ahead of us. Seeing the boat it immediately flopped itself forcefully on its side in order to submerge quickly.

12 June Endicott Arm, Alaska
1 mi SW. Dawes Glacier.

On the drifting icebergs

J M Johnston
1948

Hair Seals

12 June that break off of the glacier, and mill around in the counter current near the north wall of the Harm, a herd of about 150 seal lay like large sausages. They lie on the low flat topped bergs which afford places for them to crawl up onto the bergs. This was about 1:30 P.M. The sun was shining brilliantly, the reflection off the sides of the almost vertical walls of the Arm intensified the heat so that we had to strip to our T shirts to feel comfortable. Wind was dead calm. Within three seconds after the first shots were fired at them, the whole herd was in the water. We hunted them in this area for the next four hours. About 5:00 P.M. a wind commenced to blow off the glacier made us put on every available piece of clothing. It blew at about 25 k/s and was icy cold. Sun still shining

Mountain.
(1948

Hair Seal

12 June. About 5:30 P.M. the seal become scarce, wouldn't see one for fifteen minutes at a stretch. We then left that area and went up into a branch fijord off Endicott Arm to escape the wind. A turbulent torrent perhaps 100 feet wide poured down into this inlet from a dead glacier a mile or more back up in the deep canyon. A shallow shelf existed at the end of this inlet, due to the gray mud that was brought down with torrent from the dead glacier. Where the stream emptied into the inlet we noticed violent splashes along the surface near the shore. These splashes were made by seal that were surfacing with such force that they would hurl themselves half out of water. One of these was shot. The contents of its stomach

Hair Seal

12 June. showed that it had been feeding on shrimp. The shrimp showed little sign of being digested which indicated that they had not been eaten more than a half hour before the seal was killed.

These seal are yellowish gray with dark brown spots about the size of a 50¢ piece scattered at about foot intervals over their body. A gradation of gray from a yellowish gray to a dark blue-gray.

Occasionally a pup will be seen swimming immediately behind its mother. The mother is usual shown normal size & the pup's head is about ½ size. The pup will swim within 2 feet behind the mother. It is fairly easy to run a sow and her pup down. That is, chase them with the boat until firing range is reached because the pup can not swim fast and

J. M. Gunter.
1948

Fair Seal

12 June. can not stay - or does not stay under as long as the adult. The sow will stay with the pup even though she realizes that danger is near. We chased one particular sow + her pup. The pair would submerge and the pup came up about fifty feet away about 10 seconds later then the sow came up. About five seconds later they both submerged. Thirty feet away the pup surfaced. The sow came up a second later, grabbed him in her mouth just behind the head & pulled him under. About fifty feet further on they came up again and we shot them! The mother sank. The pup was 27 inches long. Its umbilical cord still attached 2 inches long. Mr Rohlfs said that new born pups are about ½ the length of the mother.

J. M. Johnston
1948

Pigeon Guillemot
Cepphus columba Alcidae

23 May Holkham Bay - Alaska
Bite, N.E. corner of Ben's Island.

A black duck like bird with red feet and legs, white patch on wing, but with a slender bill, flew in thru the channel between Ben's I. + Harbor I. from outer bay, turned toward Ben's I. and swooped upward, alighting in the rocks about 30 ft. above the water. It had been flying about 6-8 ft above the water. These rocks are rugged, nearly veritical up from water. This bird would be safe here in the rocks from the foxes that inhabit the island.

25 May Harbor Island Alaska.
Southern pt of Harbor Island.

This same (kind) bird was seen flying about 8 ft off the water from the rocks at the N.E. corner of Ben's I. (S. westward.) out thru the channel between Harbor I.

Jan Johnston
1948

Pigeon Guillemot

25 May (con't) and Ben's Ds. to the ~~outer~~ outer bay. It flys fast about 30 mph, with a peculiar tilting to the left & right of its course. It looks as ~~tho~~ the bird intends to make a wide sweeping curve to the right, naturally tilting its body in that direction. Then after following this curve to ~~the~~ right for 100 yds, it will tilt its body to the left, making a wide curve to the left. This alternating of course continues.

8 July Petersburg, Alaska
Mid channel, Wrangell Narrows
between Petersburg Creek + the Town.

Saw two of these ducks. They were swimming on the surface but took off, flying eastward thru the channel when our skiff approached to within 100 ft of them.

W Johnston
1948

Pigeon Guillemot

12 Aug Holkham Bay, Alaska
Chan. Between Peninsula + Harbor Is.

Saw a P. Guillemot swimming and diving about 100 ft off the Seal rock at the S. pt. of H.I. It was progressing out thru the channel with each successive dive – Current running out.

18 Aug. Holkham Bay Alaska
Pt mid part of East Shore of Harbor Is.

About 200 yds off this point which is high + rocky I saw four P. Guillemots swimming and diving. Their dives are about 30 seconds in duration but their float on the water after each dive may be three or four minutes. They are very wary and will start swimming away from me when the skiff approaches within 300 ft. When I came within about 100 ft of them, two flew away westward toward Stephens Passage and set

McIntosh
1948

Pigeon Guillemot

18 Aug (con't) down in the water about 500 yds from where they had been. When I came within about 75 feet the remaining two flew toward the Sitka Harbor Island, and alighted perhaps 100 yds off shore.

19 Aug Holkham Bay Alaska Chan. East of Harbor Island.

Saw three P. G. about in the same place that I saw them yesterday. They were doing the same thing just swimming + diving.

24. Aug Holkham Bay Alaska Chan. east of Eagle Island.

trainer When the P. G. takes off, it's body up to about 30°-40° angle from the horizontal, flaps its wings quickly and paddles with its feet along the surface of the water for about 4 ft. Then lifts into the air staying close to the water at first — gradually attaining usual flying height (6-8 ft)

M Johnston
1948

Turdus migratorius

7 June Juneau Alaska
1.5 mi N. of Douglas bridge, N Juneau Rd.

One seen flying from clump of low bushes on one side of road to the conifers on other side of road. It ~~is~~ rare that a ~~robin~~ is seen, ~~in comparison to~~ the ~~large~~ flocks that one ~~is~~ used to seeing ~~in States~~

28 June Same as above.

A group of about twelve were seen flying in a scattered flock in the area on the north side of the road that had once been burned off but had now grown up with alders, blue berries, elder berry and salmon berry bushes. Some of this flock were seen to fly into the conifers at the west side of the road. We called this new growth area "the prairie" because of its open expanse in comparison to the dense woods

J.W. Johnston
1948

Turdus migratorius.

10 July Petersburg, Alaska.
Ames Fish Farm - Petersburg Creek

Immediately following a heavy down pour of rain, a robin emerged from a fifteen foot bush with the feathers of it's head, back & breast thoroughly wetted. It proceeded to comb them out with its bill.

They are frequently seen around the farm, that is, they may be seen singly or in pairs when ever one looks for them.

21 July. Same place as above.

A group of about ten robins were flying in & out of shrubs & large bushes covering an area of about half an acre to the west of the mink sheds. They seem to be making more of a rumpus with their chattering call. Perhaps they seem more noisy than usual because they utter the chattering

21 July (cont) when they take off in flight, and they are moving about in a rather restless fashion.

24 July Petersburg, Alaska.
Ames Fur Farm, Petersburg Crab.

A young robin flew against the glass window today killing himself. I would not have noticed that it was a young one had it not been killed so that close examination could be made.

7 Aug. Holkham Bay - Harbor Island.
Kohlhaas Fox Farm. Alaska

A group of 8-10 robins seen flying about in the Alaska + Admiral Club near the shore on the south-eastern part of the island.

9 Aug Same place

One robin seen from back porch

J M Johnston
1948

Robin

18 Aug 15:30. Holkham Bay, Alaska
Kohlhase's Fox Farm, Harbor Island

A lone robin was perched squarely on the top most bough of a 50 ft conifer. It nearly sat with its head drawn down on its body, uttering a thin, high plaintive note at about 4 second intervals.

20 Aug. Same

Saw two near the sand beach, NE end of Island.

27 Aug. Holkham Bay, Alaska
Sundum Place.

Two heard & seen in the tops of the conifers - old, deep forest.

J.M. Johnston.
1948

Varied Thrush.

7 June Juneau, Alaska.
0.5 mi N of Douglas Bridge, N. Juneau Rd.

A Varied Thrush ~~has~~ been seen frequently around the back yard. It gathers crumbs & table scraps that have been thrown out of the kitchen, and carries them into the conifers to the west of the house. It always flies to ~~the~~ the same place about half way up the 75 ft Spruce trees and disappears ~~at the place~~ into the woods.

27 July. Petersburg, Alaska
Ames Fox Farm, Petersburg Creek

One killed itself by flying into a window. I see it about every day about the ranch.

15 Aug Holkham Bay, Alaska
Kohlhase's Fox Farm, Harbor Is.

One was seen to fly from the potato patch to the conifers to the north of the yard.

J. M. Johnston.
1948.

Great Blue Heron
Ardea herodias Ardeidae

26 July. Petersburg, Alaska
Ames Fur Farm Petersburg Creek.

One was seen flying northward from the flats up the creek. It was dusk, ½ hr after sundown. The heron was flying at about 100 ft elevation. It alighted on the top of a conifer that had had the upper branches knocked off, so that the branches on which the bird perched were stout. (2-3 in diam).

29 July. Same as above.

This G.B. Heron was wading at the waters edge in the mud flat like slough south west of the ranch. The tide was flooding.

8 Aug. Holkham Bay Alaska.
Southern point of Harbor Island.

One flew from Beno's I. to Harbor Island perched on the limb of a spruce, 20 feet from the ground. 40 ft from where I stood. Stayed a minute, then flew west over the

J. M. Johnston
1948

Great Blue Heron

2 Sept. Holkham Bay Alaska.
Kohlhases Fox Farm

At dusk, three were seen flying northwestward along the southern shore of the island

WM Johnston
1948

Brown Bear

1 July Holkham Bay, Alaska
Mainland shore N. of Sunadum Island

This bear was walking about on the Fucus flat, the tide was low. He had its head down to the ground as if he were grubbing in the fucus beds. A shot was fired over the bear's head to scare him. It began running toward the wood but slowed to a walk after proceeding a hundred feet - another shot spurred him into a gallop again & he slowed again - finally disappeared into the bushes at the base of the wood.

When the bear galloped, its hind feet would be brought forward & straddled apart, this front legs straight down between his straddled hind legs. Next steps the legs would be stretched forward & backward

M Johnston
1948

Brown Bear

July, then brought together
(as described before

This brown bear was
about the same size as
the other black bears
that were seen. Perhaps
these brown + black bears
are color phases of the
same specie

W M Johnston
1948

Pandion haliaeetus
Osprey. Pandioninae

3 July Entrance of Wrangell Narrows.
1 mi west of Petersburg, Alaska

The gray cod were numerous and were engaged in feeding on shrimp shells + scrap shrimp from Sheldon's shrimp picking plant. They (cod) would break the surface.

An Osprey took its observation position at a height of about 75 feet from the water - Flying (+ at times soaring) into the wind (5 kts) never keeping a vigilance. When a fish was sighted he would fold his wings afore back to his body + plummet at about 70° into (toward) the water. Often he would swoop up again before hitting the water because the fish had vanished. A few times he would dive clear under, after about 20 minutes + approx. 20 dives he caught a fish.

J.M. Johnston
1948

Porpoise.

15 July Entrance to New Post Walter Baranof Is. Alaska.

A school of about eight met the Yakobi about 3/4 mi off the entrance. They dart back & forth in front of the bow in a taskmaster fashion. Will swim about 6-10 feet below the surface. Movement of the horizontal tail flukes is about 4 undulations to the second. Our boat was traveling at 10 Kts & the porpoise would exceed our speed by half again that much (15 Kts). They turn sharply, rolling slightly to the side in the direction they wish to take. The front flippers are extended down at an angle of about 20° from the body while swimming on the straight-a-way - but when a turn is executed, the front flippers are raised almost to a horizontal position. While swimming in this fast manner they will

Porpoise

5 July. breaks water every 15-20 seconds. The rear horizontal flukes are kept in continuous, rythmic undulation, except when breaking water for a breath. During the time that the air is exhausted & a new breath taken the flukes are held still or almost so.

When they turn, the magnitude of the turn is seldom more than 45°. This is because of the difficulty in checking their forward motion. Flapper turns can be executed at the fast speed, but are more likely to occur at slow speeds.

27 Aug Holkham Bay, Alaska
337°T, 1.6 mi from Bar Light

The porpoise have been seen every day about the Bay. They are rolling & blowing in the slow manned that indicates they are fishing or travelling slowly. This ~~one~~ particular one is the first one that I have seen blow

J M Johnston
1948

Porpoise

27 Aug. differently than the usual roll breaking the surface & exhaling immediately, ~~followed by~~ an immediate inhale ~~then submerge~~. Ex and inhale require a second, or less to complete. This one rolled to the surface exposing the upper part of his head and about two feet of his back centwise. - Highest part 6" above the surface. - Made four complete exhales & inhales before submerging. 25 seconds later, it surfaced about 50 yds from first place of surfacing and repeated the blowing - ~~Ex + In 3 X.~~ Exhaled and inhaled 3 times before submerging

J M Johnston
1948

Baleen Whale

18 May Stephens Passage, Alaska
1 mi N of Pt Arden, Admiralty Is

While lying at anchor, (nye) clean-
ing fish, a whale blew
a waterspout 30 feet into
the air about 100 yds off
shore. The sound was terrific
like a 5 in 50 going off. First
came the initial explosion
sound followed by a
wooosh. It submerged
almost as soon as it
had blown. About three
minutes later it blew
again. This time about the
same distance from shore
but about 500 yds farther
north along the shore.
It was probably traveling
northward following the
shore line as it went.

5 June Juneau Alaska 0.5 mi N
Eastincan, Adm. of Town

A whale was seen blowing
at intervals as it proceeded
northward thru the channel.

J M Johnston
1948

Baleen Whale

5 June (con't) The channel gets more shallow just north of here, so the whale has only about 5 miles to go before he'll have to retrace his path. He is probably following a school of Herring up the channel. He will surface about every 300-400 yds, sometimes blows only once, usually he blows twice 10-15 seconds apart, once he blew three spouts. He stays submerged anywhere from 8 to 10 minutes

W Johnston
1848

Baleen Whale

+ Aug Fredrick Sound
1600 3/3 distance between Kake & Tyee.

A whale spout about 20 feet high drew our attention to this whale that was floating with only a small portion of his back showing (1 ft high + 20 feet long). The spouts occured regularly every 25-30 seconds. Six spouts were seen before our boat approached close enough to alarm the whale. The spouts came from the forward part of the whale that was submerged about 10 feet forward of the visable part. We approached to within 300 yards. The whale raised the visable section so that about a half of the vertical distance of the body showed like a huge black hump. This hump rolled forward & downward until the tail arced up out of the water and submerged vertically.

Jan Johnston

Baleen Whale 24

+Aug.

Thus humping over & submerging is a vertical dive is called sounding by the natives (denizens) of Alaska. The operation required 3-4 seconds for the whale to submerge.

JM Johnston
1948

Baleen Whale

11 Sept. Juneau, Alaska

During a discussion of the whales in Holkham Bay, Mrs. Kohlhase said that she had seen whales jump completely out of water in the channel just south of Eagle Island. They (whales) would fall back into the water making such loud sounds that they (sounds) would reverberate from the mountains around the Bay.

M. Johnston
1948

Northern Phalarope

Lobipes ~~lobatus~~ lobatus.

≠ Phalaropodidae

4 Aug. Chatham Strait and Frederick Sound.

From Funter Bay to Five Finger light - down through the Strait ~~[illegible]~~ to Port Alexander, on an average of about one flock in every half hour, a flock of three (considering size) about 100 have been seen. They fly in flocks of 25 - 100, keeping always about 6-8 feet off the water. They fly fast with quick jerky beats their bellies are white, back a dusky gray-white they have that characteristic flocking flight of Sandpipers - all wheeling together to the left or right.

These birds keep as much out in the open passages as well as near the shore lines. Frequently seen floating on the water.

JM Johnston
1948

Salmon

23 June Holkham Bay Alaska
Harbor Island, southern tip.

In schools that would measure 15-20 feet in diam there would be thousands of fry salmon 1 3/4" to 2 1/4" long. They would keep as close to shore as possible. This was the safest place for them since the water is calm as a lake. In deeper water they would fall prey to larger fish and fish eating birds.

Johnston
1948.

Humpback Salmon.

Aug Little Port Walter.
Sashin Creek This study made by Mr. Olsen, Keeper of the Fish and Wildlife station at Little Port Walter. Principally a salmon counting station

Development of Embryo

22 Sept 1944 Embryo started to develop. Shows a concentrated mass at one pole of egg.

2 Oct. Practically same. Eye spot slightly more concentrated.

12 Oct. Same. Embryo in about 24 hr. stage comparative to chick.

22 Oct. Slightly bigger.

1 Nov. Comparable to 72 hr. chick. Eye spot black definitely formed.

11 Nov. Emb. ¼" long. Body starting to lengthen in proportion to total size.

21 Nov Emb. 2 (times) as long. Reaching from pole to pole of egg. Greatest development in size so far (spurts in growth)

Humpback Salmon

1 Dec. Slightly larger than 1/2 again the length that it had attained by 21 Nov.

11 Dec. Some of embryos in the jar same size as a week ago. One comparatively a larger one. Emb. 1 had grown to one inch long. Egg (yolk sac) pendulous from its abdomen.

24 Dec. All embryos now longer than egg diam. about 1" 1/4 Yolk mass located about 2/3 forward.



Smallest more in size.

31 Dec. Slight devel. Yolk sack slightly smaller. Looking longer in proportion to body length.

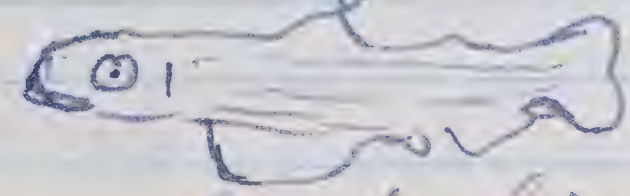
10 Jan Slight more growth, about same proportions

20 Jan. Slight more devel

M Johnston
1948

O. gorbuscha Salmon

30 Jan. 1½" long. Definitely
tateing on "fish" appear
once more. Yolk sac
almost ¾ gone. Tail +
fins definitely formed



From mid line along
body, a definitely
darker dorsal pig
mentation. Intestine
clear.

9 Feb. Yolk sac slightly smaller
Dorsal pigmentation darkening.
Head still largest
part. Embryonic pro-
portions.

19 Feb -. More pigm. dorsal.

1 March Only slight bulge
of yolk sac. Body
pigmentation shows pig
mentation along the
more translucent
abdominal half.

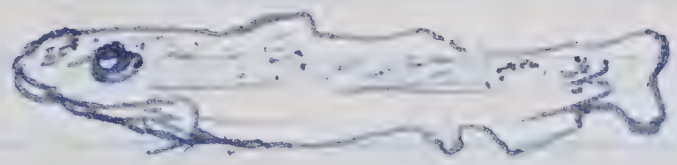
J M Johnston
1848

Humpback Salmon

11 March. Body taking on more fish like proportions. thru tail region.

21 March. More —

1 April



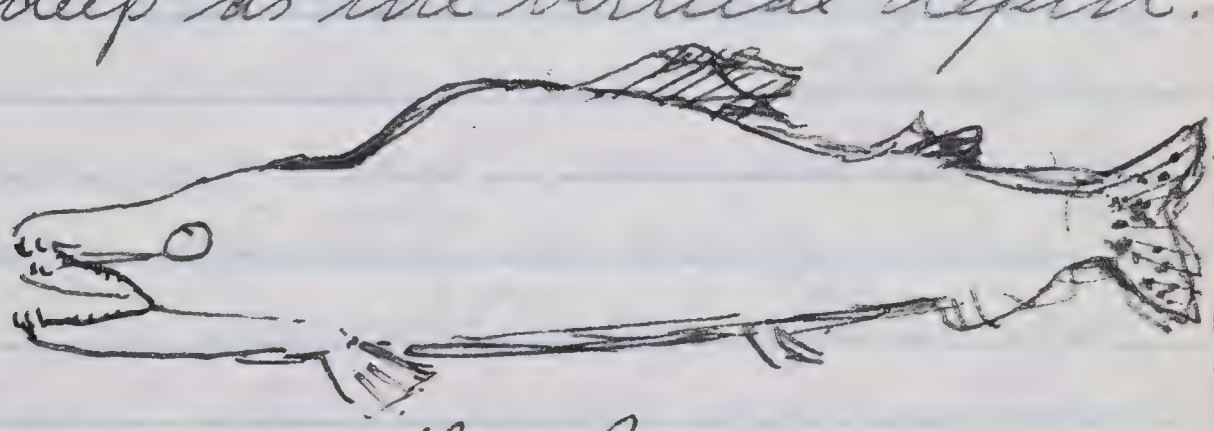
14 Aug. Holkham Bay Alaska
Duck Creek,

At a place in the creek where the stream spreads out over a bar, where the rocks are fist size or less, it is about 25 ft wide & 6 in. deep. Small channels in this bar will run about 10 in deep. In one of these small channels there was a hollow 2 ft wide & 3 ft long that ran about a foot deep. In it were two Humpies, a ♂ and a ♀. [The female usually ~~measures~~ about 18 in long, & 5" vertically.

(a stream)

W. Johnston Humpback Salmon. 5

14 Aug. and 2,5→3 inches horizontally. Her shape is trim & well proportioned. The male is larger- measuring about 24" long, 3→3.5 in. wide, but varies greatly through the vertical depth. Most all the males will have a hump. Some (very few) will be mistaken for a female. On the average male, the hump is half again as deep as the vertical depth.



Sometimes the hump is as deep as the whole width of the body of the fish, the hump & body together at the ~~thickest~~ deepest part measures 10 → 12"]

Both the female & the male were facing the current with the male swimming as much or so behind the female. At intervals of about three minutes the female would flop over on its side, to the left or right

WM Johnston
1948

Humpback Salmon

14 Aug. , showing her white belly. Twice another male made an attempt to enter this little hollow but the male that was first there with the female, chased him away by biting his tail. Then a third male came up from below downstream and chased out the original male taking his place the female stayed in the hollow all the while and was not molested by any of the males.

I frightened them so that they both left the hollow. The female ventured to return to the hollow but when she saw me standing near it she turned + swam quickly up stream.

In pool that measured 100 x 25 x 3 ft there would be about 100 → 200 fish.

M Johnston
1948

Field Notes

Holkham Bay, Alaska

14 Aug From my skiff as I look shoreward, in a northerly direction toward the flats just west of Duck Creek.

Hundreds of Herring gulls moving about in the water as far out as fifty feet off shore. They are not feeding - just dabbling. Hundreds more are standing on the beach which is nothing more than a vast fucus bed extending from a thousand to 3000 feet wide. A flock of about 40 Canada Geese were moving slowly about in the grassy zone of the beach above the fucus beds - some of the geese were in the fucus beds. As I landed on the east shore they flew west, setting up a honking chorus as they flew about 50ft altitude. I can still hear them honking perhaps two miles down the beach

Field notes

14 Aug. One wading bird (crane or heron 3ft ~~tall~~ high) is wading at the waters edge by himself west of where the gull flock is. Two Bald Eagles are perched atop large boulders in the intertidal zone, tops of which are in zone 1. They are preening their feathers in the warm sun. A flock of about 25 Mallards flyer west ward out of the Creek mouth. An occasional squirrel will trill in the wood. Also an occasional Steller Jay will give his alarm or chatter call. A flock of about ten Crows are continually voicing their jargon in the tops of the conifers near the point east side Duck Creek. Short billed gulls can be hear screaming over toward the west shore. A continual chorus of cries of Bonaparte gulls & ducks comes from the

Field notes

14 Aug. Sunbum flats to the west. A large flock of American Scoters flew eastward. Over - Bay
Two large flocks, A. Scoters 200-300 each lying toward Crow Island in water off shore.

A seal bobbed its head two times 300 yds off shore. Several porpoise rolling + blowing slowly about 500 yds off shore.

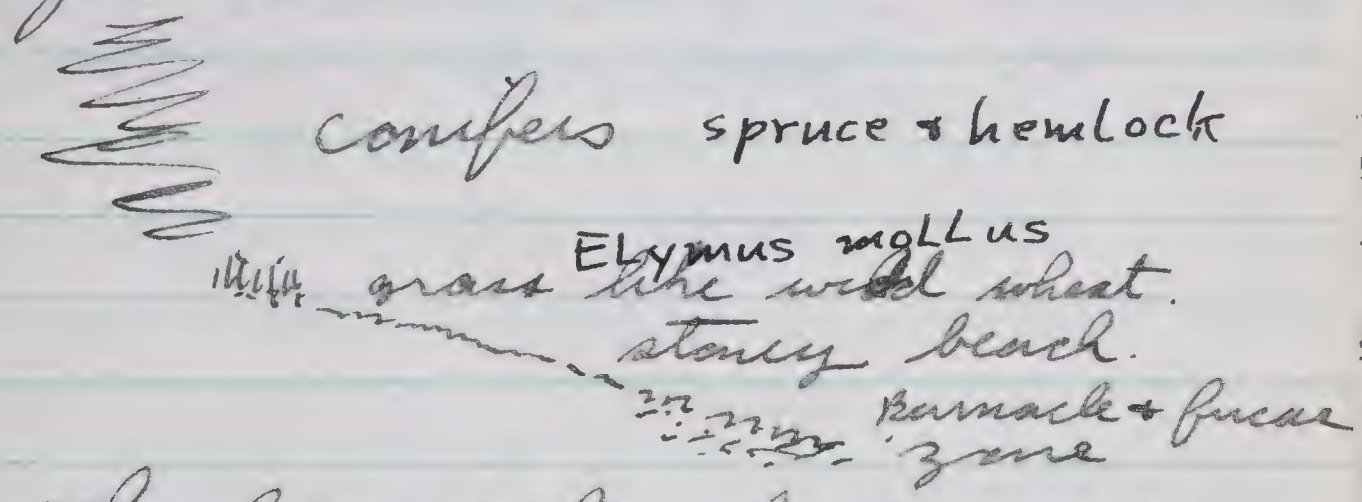
Weather warm 75°. no wind. Bright Sun - Cumulus clouds scattered in distant skies.

M Johnston
1948

Sandpiper

14 Aug. Holkham Bay - Alaska
Shore East of Duck Creek.

Here the shore slopes down at its normal angle 15° from horizontal.



In the Barnacles fucus zone a small sand piper size shore bird is moving about. picking at the rocks on the beach, presumably feeding on the sand fleas & bugs. There are five in a scattered group. Some are nearly standing, still in the water, the shore or the beach. Occassionally one will take a few steps. stand - then raise its hinder part in an upward bob. Back is all gray-brown - Belly white. White extends up in front of wing in distinct

M Johnston
1948

Sandpiper

14 Aug Patch. Bill + feet black. Bill about 1 in. long. Gray-brown of back extends up over head.

As they walk they give the characteristic upward bob of the tail.

M Johnston
1948

Sandpiper

14 Aug cont.
2030 The tide was now coming in — had reached the upper level of the fucus zone! These same birds were doing the same that was described.

They flew off shore about a hundred feet then came back & alighted in about the same place on the beach. In flying they will sometimes give a glide then a few quick wing beats then a glide. Its specially just before landing!

M Johnston
948

Porcupine

14 Aug Holkham Bay Alaska
½ mi east of Bay on Duck Creek.

6:30 Porcupine came up from sand bar in the stream bed to the grassy, flat plateau (3 feet) via a trail thru the brush that had trampled yesterday when we were fishing. His head was down near the ground – waddled as he walked. Came within ten feet of me – sat up with his back to me and nibbled on a small alder bush. Back down on all fours. He turned his head toward me, saw me, then still taking his ambly time he walked into the clump of small conifers (spruce) and alders along the stream.

His quills were black. The under hair was a dirty yellow color. Head appeared black – body dirty yellow. Body is bloated out of proportion to whole frame. Head – tail 3 ft. 1.8 feet high at back about 1.5 feet wide. Warm Sunny day

J.M. Johnston.
1948

Duck Hawk?

16 Aug Holkham Bay, Alaska
Kohlhase's Fox farm, Harbor Island.

A hawk that resembled a small Cooper's Hawk except for pointed wing tips was seen to fly from the conifers just east of the house & alight on the roof of the wood shed. It flew from here to a post behind the wood shed, then up into the top of the conifers to the north of the house. Later, that day a hawk of this same type was seen flying over the Bay in the direction from Duck Creek to Crow Island.

17 Aug. Holkham Bay, Alaska.
0.5 mi west Crow Island.

I was drifting along in my skiff when this hawk flew by 100 ft away. It turned & flew directly toward me. 50 feet from me it changed course, flew off 500 feet & made another flight straight for me at about 20 ft high. Then flew toward Crow Island.

Gyrfalcon. Duck Hawk?
1948

27 Aug Holkham Bay Alaska
005°T, 1.9 mi from Bar Light.

The hawk, heretofore mentioned, was seen emerging from the top of the conifer wood, in the gliding position. It assumed a gliding angle of descent 10° and maintained this glide in the straightest, steadiest and truly most beautiful glide I have ever seen a bird make. It did not make the slightest motion (other than the glide) until it broke the glide to swoop down on a flock of sand pipers at the water's edge. When it was, perhaps 20 feet from them. It did not make a catch, and proceeded to chase one of the small birds. Made 3-4 passes at it then abandoned the chase & returned to the tops of the conifers. From top of conifers where glide began to the water's edge where glide was broken was about 400 yds.

JM Johnston
1948

Canadian Goose.

Branta canadensis

16 Aug Holkham Bay, Alaska.
West Bank Entrance to Duck Creek.

Nellia
Utkaenesis → This area is a large flat
covered with a short grass similar ~~short~~
~~or~~ to blue grass; a small plant 2-3
Lux
Narius
Arctica inches high, one central stem and
leaves paired alternating up the stem
so that the plant appears symetrical-
ly quadrangular, and salicornia.
For the past three mornings
a flock of about 50 geese have
been routed out of this area
by my approach. They usually
fly out in two groups, the
first group leaving 30 sec. to a min
ute ~~after~~ before the second.
They have flown away each
day westward along the
south shore of Sundum Pen.
at about 50 ft elevation, honk-
ing as they flew.

I have been drifting westward
along the south shore of Sundum
Peninsula with the tide for about
3/4 an hour. In that time, three
flocks of about 10-15 geese each have
flown eastward along the
shore, not venturing out over the water

Johnston
1948

Canadian Geese

27 Aug Holkham Bay, Alaska
Flats of intertidal zone, south
side of Sunduni Pen.

I had hid myself in the tall wheat like grass at the edge of the conifer wood and was watching a small group of about 10 geese that were walking slowly around in an area about 300 yds out on the grass + duck weed flat. They made very little honking noise. Another group approached (8) flying from the south part of the bay. They followed the shoreline as they flew northward, getting closer + closer to where the first group was. I heard them when they were about 2 miles away — honking as they came. They alighted in the duck weed flat halfway between me and the first group. They appeared to be a little rattled just after alighting, walking about with their heads up

7 Aug (Con't) And continuing to honk now and then. One by one they started to feed. putting their heads down into the duck weed. Honking became less + less till all was quet. One big one kept his head up, looking all around as if he were on guard, but soon he put his head down and fed like the rest.

I shot one. Its intestine was full of ground up green plant. In the gizzard was a little of the ground grass or weed. In the crop was the broken parts of the ducks weed and short grass like blue grass. Also there were amphipods.

I broke up a clump of this grass + duck weed. The soil around the tangled roots was about 80% sand. There were quite a number, perhaps 50 amphipods to the square foot. Found one earthworm like annelid. It had a tougher outer cuticle than regular earthworms.

C. J. Johnston
1958

Field Notes.

16 Aug. Holbham Bay, Alaska.

The tide has been ebbing about an hour and a half. The day is bright, warm, changing breeze, cumulus cloud hanging over Admiralty Island toward the west.

A large iceberg has been grading up, leaving the mud section of the bay littered with chunks about fifty feet (+ smaller) square, 4-5 feet high. Four days ago, this big berg floated passed Sundum Island & ran aground several hundred yds south of the light house. It was then about 400ft long 200 wide and 50 ft high -. Every 30 minutes or so either a large portion of it will crack off with a loud report, then a roaring sound will continue until the pieces have come to rest. Thus may take a minute because the pieces when turning more comparatively slowly like the roll of a ship.

A flock of perhaps 600 Herring gulls have been sitting on the spit of sand that protrudes out into the bay from the southern shore of Sundum Isl. They have

* or the whole ice berg will roll over

Field Notes

16 Aug. been voicing their crying so that scarcely a moment goes by that their crying is not heard. The flock has not moved as a body for about an hour - Occasionally members will come and go.

There have been two large flocks of Bonaparte Gulls, one near the bay end of Swodum Pen. the other near Duck Creek. At intervals of about five minutes these flocks will take to the air and fly sometimes close to the surface, at times at 200-300 feet high. Sometimes the whole flock will swoop & turn in crazy fashion, other time only individuals will go through all sorts of antics, swooping up or down.

The Herring Gulls prefered to sit on the higher places of the sand spit but the Bonaparte Gulls when they did alight did so close to the waters edge.

WM Johnston
1948

Bonaparte's Gull
Larus philadelphia

17 Aug Holkham Bay - Alaska
Channel East of Harbor Island.

11:00 Hundreds of these Gulls were scattered over the bay, feeding on the small surface fish. They fly about 20 feet off the water - flutter down to the surface, then dive from about a foot high. They hold their wings up high as they enter the water. Scarcely more than just their head submerges. They then will either fold their wings & sit on the water for about ten seconds or immediately take off again without folding their wings.

Bright, warm day, no wind, cirrus clouds scattered. Tide flooding almost at high water.

15:00 These gulls were flying in a massive flock at about 1000 ft. The flock was wheeling. Suddenly, the ones toward the lower part of the flock began swooping

Bonapartes Gull

17 Aug. in steep descent to the mud flats. The tide was now ebbing - almost at low water.

When most of this large flock had either landed on the shore just above the water, or on the water within 50 feet of shore; one individual seemed to take the show to himself. He would fly speedily & wildly, making jerking turns first to the right then to the left of his course as he flew about 3 feet over the heads of the others on the water. Then he would swoop up, turn quickly at the apex of his upward swoop + swoop down again. Sometimes he would swoop up to about 25 ft, level off smoothly, then "parachute" his way back down to the water in the most graceful manner of gliding. All the while, he was uttering the noisy rasp of these gulls.

J M Johnston.
1946

Bonaparte's Gull.

Larus philadelphia. Larinae

18 Aug Holkham Bay. Alaska.
Between Point Coke & Sundum Pen.

These gulls were feeding like they did the other day- covering the whole surface of the bay in a scattered flock, flying about 20 feet high, fluttering or swooping crazily down to within a foot or so of the water then diving in head + neck only.

About one in ten I saw adult, the most of them are immature, varying from ones that are mottled with brown along the flanks & shoulders to clean white color. These immature all have the black band on the tail.

A small flock (50) were standing on a point of the beach that jutted out from shore. When I landed they flew off the point and alighted in the water within 75 feet of the point. Members of the flock kept coming and going, some went just to the eddies + swirls 100 yds off shore + back. This flock dispersed entirely by 12 hour after high tide

JM Johnston
1948

Bonaparte Gull

19 Aug Holkham Bay, Alaska.
Beach just E of Point Coke.

(50) The B. gulls, in the same size flock as yesterday, were standing on the small point, or in the water such as they were yesterday. By ½ hr after high water they were gone. This is twice they have been congregated in the same place doing the same activities during the same phase of the tide. Some did feed in the swirls that appear just off this beach on the incoming tide. On the outgoing tide the swirls appear ½ of a mile farther west.

20 Aug. Same - Swirls between Point Coke & Summer Pass.

The mammoth flock was feeding in a confined area ½ mi N of the swirls. They were massed so densely that the spot looked solid white. Most were floating & feeding, some flying. I shot a couple a few minutes later. The stomach was full of needle fish. Birds were floating in a flock when shot

jon Johnston
1968

Lesser Yellow Legs
Totanus flavipes
Scolopacidae

17 Aug Holkham Bay Alaska
12:00 0.5 mi up Duck Creek - East of Bay

Seen in the center of a dry sand bar, walking toward the stream edge. It walked slowly - taking each step with caution. About every 2-3 seconds it would tilt its whole body backwards so that tail would drop down + the head bob backwards. This was a quick bobbing motion. It entered the much deep water and began poking its bill in the pebbly sand.

J M Johnstone
1948

Marbled Murrelet
~~Grebe~~

1

6 May Harbor Island Alaska

While we have been fishing in the waters around the island I have seen a small ~~grebe~~ murrelet that is most always seen in pairs. It has a dark brown back, black bill and legs and the sides & belly are a mottled brown & white. Occasionally, one or two are seen flying by the boat perhaps within 100 yds of the boat, fast, straight or very wide curved course of flight. Most of the time they are seen when the boat runs near them in the water. Usually they will stay on the surface until the boat is within 50 feet of them, then the pair will dive, one within two or three seconds of the other. Before they dive they will make away from the boat in a skittering fashion then dive. Most always they dive to get

J. M. Johnston
1948

~~Grebe~~
Marbled Murrelet

4 May (can't) away from the boat.
This afternoon we saw a pair down and one dove while the other took off and flew away after skittering and bouncing on the water. Sometimes it looks as though the bouncing against the waves is accidental, that is it looks like the ~~grebe~~ murrelet is having a hard time getting up flight speed and the waves impede his efforts to fly - At other times this skittering and bouncing looks deliberate, using the bounce on the wave to boost him higher into the air.

18 July Stephen's Passage, Alaska
3 mi N. of Midway Islands.

Saw four of these little ~~grebes~~ murrelets in a group. They skittered, and bounced on the water before taking off per as usual. First time I've seen four in a group

J. M. Johnston
1948

Marbled Murrelet.

Brachyramphus marmoratus
Alcidae.

9 Aug. Hochham Bay, Alaska
Harbor Island, southern tip.

While watching for seal from the big rock on the S. tip of the island I saw one of these little birds diving in the channel between Harbor Island and Bens Island It was about 50 yds from the rock when it passed. The tide was running out. It would dive, stay down about 30 seconds and then come up 50 yds or more farther out the channel than where it dived. This is the first time I've seen one as close to the island as this. Before, they have always been out in the middle part of the bay where the deep water is, moreover, they have been seen in all the large bodies of the inland waters, Chatham Strait, Fredrich Sound, Stephens Passage and Eastmeau than, where I have been.

Their dive is snappy, throwing up a little splash of

J M Johnston
1948

Marbled Murelet

9 Aug (con't) water as they go over. Their short tail seems to give a flip up. ?

11 Aug Holkham Bay Alaska
Chan. 300 yds N of Ben's Island.

Saw 12 in what might be called more or less a group. The bunch was scattered, some close within a few feet of each other, others were 30-40 feet apart. Some shittered & flew away as I approached them, others shittered away and dived. They dive, not simultaneously but a few seconds apart, and will surface within a few seconds of each other. They stayed down about 20 seconds. I chased after them, rowing hard, and they disbanded more or less in their efforts to get away, flying off in somewhat the same general direction, toward the wider part of the bay by Harbor Island.

Their flight is fast (35 mph?)

J. M. Johnston
1948

Marbled Murelet

14 Aug (con't) quick wing beat. They seldom fly more than four feet off the surface.

Today was calm water and some of these murelets used the bounces after they had first skittered along the water to help themselves gain flying speed. They really look funny, executing three 4-5 belly bounces. Some of them didn't use the bounce - just skittered along the water, flopping their wings, and finally they get up enough speed and off they go!

18 Aug Hoekham Bay, Alaska
Qwerks - Entrance to Tracy Arm

Six of these little murelets were seen today in a group that were diving in the qwerks and eddies between Pt Kolze and Lumdum Peninsula.

Their voice is a plaintive

J M Johnston
1948

Marbled Murrelet -

18 Aug. (con't) descending, wheezing whistle that lasts one sec and duration. These were giving their whistle frequently when they would surface, but I have also heard them whistle while flying.

They have in the past week shown a change in color in some of the individuals. The white of the belly and underpart of the tail has been extended up farther on the sides of body and over the throat and sides of the neck. This white is clean looking.

20 Aug. Hollshaw Bay, Alaska
Channel NE. side Harbor Island

The sea was dead calm today. One murrelet, when taking off, planed its body along the surface for about six feet before lifting into the air. It used its feet to paddle as well as its wings. Once in the air it did not bounce onto the water.

J.M. Johnston
1948

Marbled Murrelet

29 Aug Holbham Bay, Alaska
Between Pt Colpoys' Harbor Island.

The foul weather does not seem to impede the habits of these little birds. There has been a strong wind blowing from the S.E. accompanied by torrential downpour. They are seen just as frequently in this weather as in fair weather.

JM Johnston
1948

~~Douglas Squirrel~~

Tamiasciurus hudsonicus

23 Aug Holkham Bay, Alaska
13:00 Sunrdum Rep.

I heard trilling and chirping within 100 yds radius of where I stood in the woods. One scampered about the trunk of a 3ft diam spruce, staying about 10 feet from the ground. The distal branches, 2-3 in diam, that jutt from the trunk afford sitting perches. The squirrel displays an energetic, alert behavior. When stimulated by a quick motion of my arm, it would dash behind the trunk making a series of loud chirps that follow one quick succession. It would remain behind the tree, chirp a few single chirps at perhaps a second interval, then work his way from behind the trunk into my view in perhaps 3-4 quick spurts of scampering, a foot gained between stops. It would stop anywhere, on a horizontal limb, on the trunk, hanging head down or head up.

J. M. Johnston

~~Douglas Squirrel~~

Tamiasciurus hudsonicus

23 Aug. The squirrel darted behind the trunk and appeared again in about 20 seconds with a cone in his mouth. Whether he got it from his cache below ground or from those lying about on the surface, I did not see. He sat on a horizontal limb, the weight of his body balanced on his hind limbs, tail lying appressed to his back, in a crouched position, and proceeded to eat the cone, holding it in his fore jaws. The cone was 2½" × 1". Started at the base, biting off every scale at a time, one about 1 4 seconds. Took him 2 min. + 40 sec. to eat it. — dropped the bare core when finished. Around the base of the tree a pile of cone scales + cores about 2 feet high sloped away from the trunk.

When running, up or down the trunk or along the horizontal limbs, the squirrel would keep his hind legs stretched out in back of him, not straight

J M Johnston
1948

~~Douglas Squirrel~~
Tamiasciurus hudsonicus

23 Aug. behind, but sprawdled slightly to the side. When he would stop on the vertical side of the trunk, his hind legs stayed stretched out, but when he stopped on a horizontal limb he would make 6-8 quick little hops, 1/4 in at a time, with his hind feet to bring them up underneath him. While sitting on a horizontal limb he would scratch himself with a hind paw.

25 Aug Holkham Bay, Alaska
003°T, 2.0 mi from Bar Light.

Saw one being chased by another across the floor of the woods. Where ever a fallen log was handy they would run along the log, elsewhere they picked the open places of the floor, covered only by small herbs or moss, to run.

29 Aug 'Same—

On 26th, at dusk, which now comes at about 8:30, I shot

J. McJohnston
1948

~~Douglas Squirrel~~
Tamiasciurus hudsonicus

29 Aug. two males. On the 27th at dusk I shot one male. Today about noon, I was out hunting them again, the day was overcast & quite dark in the woods, I had to walk about twice as far to scare up as many as I normally would in half the distance on bright days. Shot two, both of these females.

There was one that I shot but it managed to get to one of the many entrances before dying that they have to their den under their tree. In the pile of cone scales and also in the humus within a 6 ft radius around the tree there were 18 holes. Four of these were about 4 inches in diameter near, or next to protruding roots, and led down to the center under the tree. I could insert my arm as far as it would go (almost to shoulder) without feeling an end to the hole. The other smaller holes

J M Johnston
1948

~~Douglas Squirrel~~
Tamiasciurus hudsonicus

29 Aug. would end about a foot from their entrances with no passages leading off that I could feel. This tree was about 2½ feet in diam, with scales piled all around it, most of the trees that house squirrels have the cone scale pile only on one side. This depends on the distribution + suitability of perching branches.

11 Sept. Juneau, Alaska. Douglas Island
0.5 mi N of Douglas Bridge W. Juneau Rd.

12:31 A squirrel was seen running over a pile of logs & sticks in its usual manner of running, stopping ahead still every six to ten feet, waiting a second or two then starting another short dash. It approached and climbed a 60 ft spruce. The short dashes between pauses was characteristic of his

Jan Johnston
1948

~~Douglas Squirrel~~
Tamiasciurus hudsonicus

11 Sept. ascent up the tree, Pauses were mostly made (on) flat horizontal limbs, but not always. Twice out of the eight times of pausing during the ascent he stopped on the vertical surface of the trunk. The squirrel went to the very top, climbed out to the ends of the highest horizontal branches which were about 1/2" → 3/4" in diam, and began biting off the cones. He would throw each cone outward away from the center of the spruce, rather than just letting them drop. He bit off a cone about every 3-4 seconds. When the cones were cleaned from the first array of horiz. branches the squirrel dropped down to the second array of H. branches and cleaned off cones. The squirrel worked in that spruce for twelve minutes, then jumped to an adjacent

J M Johnston
1948

Douglas Squirrel

11 Sept. spruce while still with in fifteen feet from the top. The leap was about 2 feet. He then cleaned the cones from that spruce top. In all, he must have thrown down about 60 cones. He then descended and began gathering them. He would scurry around the base of three two trees in dashes of about one foot length. On finding a cone he would run with it in his mouth to a stump of a 2½ ft diam tree and carry it down one of the holes at the base of the stump. The stump stood about 100 feet from the two trees from which he had harvested cones.

1:50 He was still gathering cones. During the time that I watched him he did not chirp or trill.

203833